

48BC

DURANT

Pompey now made the decision that cost him his life. AFRANIUS advised him to return and recapture undefended Italy; but the majority of his counsellors urged him to pursue and destroy Caesar. The aristocrats in Pompey's camp exaggerated the victory at DYRRHACHIUM and supposed that the issue had there been decided. CICERO, who had finally joined them, was shocked to hear them dispute as to their respective shares in the coming restoration, and to see with what luxury they lived in the midst

of war — their meals served on silver plate,
their tents comfortable with carpets, brilliant with
hangings, garlanded with flowers.

Pompey would have preferred a more FABIAN
strategy, but taunts of cowardice prevailed upon
him, and he gave orders to march.

August 9, 48 BC

AT PHARSALUS, the decisive battle was

fought to the bitter end. Pompey had 48,000 infantry, 7000 horse. Caesar had 22,000 inf and 1000 horse.

[Some nobles came as spectators - "The whole flower and strength of the city of Rome, meeting here in collision with itself, offered plain proof how blind and mad a thing human nature is when passion is aroused"]

Near relatives, even brothers, fought in

the opposing Armies. Caesar bade his men spare all
Romans who would surrender; as to the young
aristocrat Marcus Brutus, he said they were to
capture him injuring him, or let him escape.
The Pompeians were overwhelmed by superior
leadership, training, and morale; 15,000 of
them were killed or wounded; 20,000 surrendered,
the remainder fled. Pompey lost the insignia of
command from his clothing and fled like the rest.
Caesar ate Pompey's supper in Pompey's tent

AUG 9, 48 BC

BATTLE OF PHARSALUS

48 BC

The famous library of Alexandria
burned down.

48 BC

In the uprising against Caesar
part of the Alexandrian Library
was burned

Oct. 7, 48 B.C.

Battle of Alexandria I (War of 1st Triumvirate)

Learning that Pompey the Great had fled to Egypt after the Battle of PHARSALUS, Julius Caesar promptly sailed to Alexandria. Here he found the Egyptian throne contested between Ptolemy ^(13 yr old) XII and his sister (also his wife) Cleopatra VII (Pompey had already been murdered.) Caesar ordered both claimants to report to him on Oct. 7, 48 B.C., for a decision as to the rightful ruler. Cleopatra complied, but 13-yr old Ptolemy declined. Instead

he ordered his general ACHILLAS to move on Alexandria and arrest the impudent Roman.

With only 3,200 men at his disposal, Caesar turned the royal palace into a fortress. Here his staunch legionaries fought off Achilles' 20,000 troops for five months. To avoid a fatal siege Caesar sent a detachment into the harbor to occupy the island of PHAROS. This action held the harbor open for a relief force, which finally arrived late in March 47 B.C. The combined Roman force routed ACHILLAS' army. Ptolemy drowned in the Nile attempting to escape. With Caesar's support Cleopatra & her 11-year-old brother Ptolemy XIII became joint rulers. In June Caesar left Egypt for Syria.

48 BC

Caesar was appointed DICTATOR again.

48 BC

Fleeing to Africa upon Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus, Cato the younger, he governed Utica until Caesar's victory at THAPSUS.

Aug 48 BC

DURANT

After PHARSALUS, Pompey rode all night to LARISSA, thence to the sea, and took ship to Alexandria. AT MYTILENE, where his wife joined him, the citizens wished him to stay; he refused courteously; and advised them to submit to the Conqueror without fear, for, he said, "Caesar was a man of great goodness and clemency." BRUTUS also escaped to LARISSA, but then he dallied and wrote to Caesar. The victor expressed great joy on hearing that he was safe; readily forgave him,

and at his request forgave CASSIUS.

When Pompey reached Alexandria, POTHINUS, eunuch vizier of young Ptolemy XII, ordered his servants to kill Pompey. The general was stabbed to death as he stepped upon the shore, while his wife looked on in helpless terror from the ship.

When Caesar arrived POTHINUS' men presented him with the severed head. Caesar turned away in horror and wept at this new proof that by diverse means men come to the same end. He established his quarters in the royal palace & set himself to regulate the affairs of Egypt.

48BC

Cleopatra^{VII} was a Macedonian Greek by origin, and more probably blonde than brunette. She was not particularly beautiful; but the grace of her carriage, the vivacity of her body and her mind, the variety of her accomplishments, the suavity of her manners, the very melody of her voice, combined with her royal position to make her a heady wine even for a Roman general. She was acquainted with Greek history, literature, and philosophy. She spoke Greek, Egyptian, Syrian, and allegedly other languages. She added the intellectual fascination of an AS PASIA to the seductive abandon of a

48BC

DURANT

Caesar was not pleased to learn that POTHINUS had banished Cleopatra and now ruled as regent for young PTOLEMY. Secretly he sent for her, and secretly she came. To reach him she had herself concealed in some bedding which her attendant APOLLODORUS carried into Caesar's apartment. The amazed Roman, who never let his victories in the field outnumber his conquests in love, was captivated by her courage and wit. He reconciled her with PTOLEMY.

& re-established her with her brother on the throne of Egypt. Learning from his barber that POTHINUS & the Egyptian general ACHILLAS were plotting to kill him and slaughter the small force that he had brought with him, he delicately arranged the assassination of POTHINUS. ACHILLAS escaped to the Egyptian army and roused it to insurrection.

48BC

DURANT

ACHILLAS and the Egyptian Army were roused to insurrection. Soon all Alexandria was alive with soldiers vowing death to Caesar. The Roman garrison, which had been stationed in the city by the Senate was inspired by its officers to join in rising against this treasonable interloper who presumed to settle the succession to the throne of the PTOLEMIES, and even to begot an heir for its future.

In this emergency Caesar acted with his customary

resourcefulness. He turned the royal palace & the near-by theater into fortresses for himself and his men, and sent for reinforcements from Asia Minor, Syria, and Rhodes. When he saw that his defenseless fleet would soon fall into the hands of his enemies, he ordered it burned. In the fire an uncertain portion of the Alexandrian library was consumed.

48-47BC

DURANT

Caesar in Egypt and Syria

VITRUVIUS, Architect

Suicide of CATO the Younger - (47BC)

COLUMELLO, botanist.

48BC

Caesar was Dictator and Consul

48BC

Gaius Cornificius Rebulus
was one of Caesar's generals in
Africa with Curius

48 BC

PHARSALUS

Mark Antony commanded
Caesar's left wing.